



# Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, August 18, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

## PDMP Weekly Activity Report

### Giant Hogweed:

Interest in Giant Hogweed is currently high. NAPIS statistics show it as the number two hot topic in July, exceeding SOD in number of internet hits. Interviews with a Michigan newspaper, and with Associated Press in New Hampshire have led to a flurry of articles and some television inquiries. The central plant board is interested in the MOU regarding hogweed program activities being circulated in the central plant board. U.S. Forest Service is also inquiring about a national cooperative approach with APHIS regarding hogweed.

National survey activities have led to a recent find by The Nature Conservancy in northern Indiana, which may still need APHIS confirmation. The Indiana find is currently being eradicated.

### Hydrilla:

The Lake Gaston hydrilla project continues to develop in Virginia and North Carolina. APHIS funding for the project now includes work with an Army Corp of Engineers aquatic ecologist on an integrated aquatic vegetation management plan and development of hydrilla biocontrol agent rearing and potential release at the lake in cooperation with Virginia Tech. APHIS is also cooperating with Corp personnel on aquatic herbicide use within the integrated program plan. Recent meetings at the Aquatic Plant Management Society meeting in Florida and with the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council were held to coordinate these activities.

### Tropical Soda Apple:

The Tropical Soda Apple MOU has been forwarded to Texas for review and consideration. Currently Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Oklahoma have signed the MOU. South Carolina and Tennessee have signed it but with

addenda. Mississippi and North Carolina declined to sign. The next Tropical Soda Apple Task Force Meeting has not been scheduled. We expect one sometime in the fall.

### Invasive Plant (Weed) Regulatory Process Meeting:

APHIS attended a meeting with National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species (NECIS) representatives Peter Jenkins (International Center for Technology Assessment), Phyllis Windle (Union of Concerned Scientists), Elizabeth Sklad (The Nature Conservancy) and Aimee Delach (Defenders of Wildlife). Peter had requested the meeting to discuss the APHIS weed regulatory process, as well as the status of the ICTA petitions for modification to the *Caulerparegulation*. The petitions will soon be published for public comment in the Federal Register. Peter previously worked for Phyllis when she led the Office of Technology Assessment report on Invasive Species. APHIS & USDA attendees were Ric Dunkle, PPQ Deputy Administrator, Alan Green (the recently appointed Assistant Deputy Administrator for PPQ Plant Health Programs -- vice Mary Neal, Polly Lehtonen PPQ BTS Identifier (Permits & Botany) & Al Tasker Federal Noxious Weed Program Manager. Also attending were two of the USDA OGC lawyers Rick Herndon & Sheila Novak, who are often involved in APHIS projects and reviews.

Streamlining of the APHIS regulatory processes was a main concern for NECIS, especially regarding next steps for target species on the WSSA/APHIS CPHST new weed project list. Ric Dunkle discussed the expected Q-37 propagative materials ANPR (Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking), as a possible new mechanism for weed regulatory listing. Evaluation under such a new system would not preclude priority action under our current risk assessment process if quicker action is deemed necessary, but should present a new opportunity for expediting U.S. weed regulatory process in the future.

Another main topic of concern to the NECIS members was adequate funding for APHIS weed programs and concern for environmental weeds.



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## **Invasiveness Prediction & Costs:**

Al Tasker mentioned to the NECIS representatives the need for support of projects on Invasiveness Prediction/Assessment, and Costs of Invaders that he has been discussing with BRS and several of the PPQ staffs. Al will be working with an APHIS employee in the Advanced Leadership Program to develop ideas for invasiveness prediction/assessment progress. The idea is to develop either a position paper or a proposal for valid approaches to the problem. These two topics have been proposed as symposium ideas for the Weed Science Society of America 2005 meeting in Hawaii and/or the Northeastern Weed Science Society 2005 meeting in DC.

## **Emerald Ash Borer Report**

### **Maryland:**

Since completing the ash removal from the ½ mile buffer area around Ed's Plant World in Brandywine, MD (Prince Georges County) on April 7, 2004, sentinel ash trees have been placed in the surrounding area. These trees have been regularly serviced between 10 and 12 times. The purple tinted saran wrap coated with tangle trap insect coating has been replaced every other service period. The removed wraps have been examined and representative Buprestids were collected for submission to Dr. Gates at SEL. Traps have been negative for emerald ash borer to date.

Mike Galvin, DNR Supervisor, Urban and Community Forestry, will be mailing out vouchers to the affected landowners for trees removed. Replacement trees will be supplied by Shemin's Nursery as part of the Tree-mendous program.

### **Michigan:**

An adult EAB from Carlton Township, Barry County, near Lansing, Michigan, was confirmed on July 23, 2004 by Dr. James Zablotny. The specimen was collected from an ash tree that was planted five or more years ago on right-of-way property and was currently serving as a program trap tree. This is a new county find.

## **Asian Longhorned Beetle Report**

### **Carteret New Jersey Asian Longhorned Beetle Find**

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture, is planning an informational press conference and media availability for the tree climbers and other personnel conducting survey efforts in the outbreak area. The press conference/media availability is tentatively planned for mid-day August 17. The intent of the press conference is to allow program personnel to explain what they are doing, how they will do it and what residents can do to help the process.

After the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with USDA APHIS LPA, sent out a media release August 5, confirming the discovery of an ALB in the Borough of Carteret, New Jersey, the following media picked up the story:

Associated Press (AP) Wire Service  
WNBC-TV Channel 4, New York  
1010 WINS Radio, New York  
AM New York – newspaper out of Manhattan, NY  
Newsday, the largest newspaper on Long Island, New York  
Howe News Tribune, New Brunswick, New Jersey  
The Philadelphia Inquirer  
Lawn & Landscape Magazine – national magazine for the green industry

Plans are being made to hold a public meeting in Carteret, New Jersey on August 23, 2004.

The publication of the Emergency Order imposing the NJ State quarantine around the new find in Carteret is planned for August 13, 2004. The state quarantine boundaries are currently set at about 1 mile radius around the infestation.

CPHST at Otis MA, confirmed the Carteret adult beetle find as a mated female. Pieces of the beetle will be sent to several labs for DNA analysis.



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Surveys with the NJ tree climbers this week around the infested tree find are negative to date. No additional infested trees were detected and no exit holes have been found. Inspectors from the IL ALB office and NY ALB tree climbers will arrive next week to assist with the survey work. Forest Service smokejumpers are scheduled to arrive the week of August 23, 2004.

## **New York and Illinois:**

Comedy Central's *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* did a piece on the ALB in New York; the show aired on Aug 5 and Aug 6.

The pressurized trunk injection treatments were completed in Lindenhurst Long Island on August 11, 2004. A total of 1530 trees were treated. At this late date in the season for trunk injection, the results for this treatment application are very encouraging. We were able to achieve almost twice the rate of application compared to the capsule trunk injection method.

As a result of continued surveys around the recent infested tree finds in Brooklyn, additional infested trees have been detected. This brings the total number of infested trees in Brooklyn to 46 for calendar year 2004. All finds are all within the core of the Brooklyn infestation.

USDA APHIS issued a press release to inform the public about the dangers of moving firewood from the infested areas of New York and Illinois to non-infested areas.